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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

March 24, 2025

Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Honorable Susan M. Donoghue, Commissioner
Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10065

Honorable Sreoshy Banerjea, Executive Director
Public Design Commission of the City of New York
City Hall, Third Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: 1000 Fifth Avenue: Metropolitan Museum of Art (Individual Landmark) – *Beyer Blinder Belle and Frida Escobedo*
– A Beaux-Arts style building designed by numerous architects, chiefly, Calvert Vaux and Jacob Wrey Mould, who designed the initial Ruskinian Gothic structure of the MET, and constructed in the 1880s, with additions in the 2000s. Application is for demolition and for the new building for the Modern and Contemporary collection, the “Tang Wing,” at the southwest corner of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Dear Chair Carroll,

THIS APPLICATION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: Part A — The building, Part B — The landscape.

Part A — The Building

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 19, 2025, the Board approved **Part A** of the following resolution by a vote of 34 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the Metropolitan Museum of Art requires increased and improved gallery space for the display of modern and contemporary art; and

WHEREAS the proposed location for the new galleries is the southwest corner of the museum building; and

WHEREAS the interior of the southwest wing has inadequate and inappropriate space for the display of modern and contemporary art; and

WHEREAS the envelope of the southwest corner has deteriorated and must be replaced; and

WHEREAS the current southwest corner galleries are known as the Lila Acheson Wallace Wing (LAW); and

WHEREAS the Lila Acheson Wallace Wing will be demolished and reconstructed as the “Tang Wing” for modern and contemporary art; and

WHEREAS the location is consistent with the Roche-Dinkeloo Master Plan approved by the City in 1971 and completed in 1991; and

WHEREAS the new Tang Wing will use the same footprint as the current LAW Wing; and

WHEREAS the new Tang Wing will be no taller than the adjacent Kravis Wing; and

WHEREAS the new wing will be fully accessible; and

WHEREAS the new wing will significantly reduce the use of energy; and

WHEREAS the Met is a collection of architectural styles expressive of their times; and

WHEREAS the Met can be seen as a collection of 21 buildings which comprise a campus like a medieval town, with narrow streets and open plazas; and

WHEREAS the evolution of the Met has created historic layers that set a context for the new wing; and

WHEREAS the massing of the new wing reflects the improved circulation and increased gallery space within the wing; and

WHEREAS the proportioning of the new wing marries it to the overall massing of the Met; and

WHEREAS the setbacks reduce the perception from the Park of the volumes required for the galleries; and

WHEREAS the use of Indiana limestone marries the wing to the primary exterior material of the Met; and

WHEREAS the use of limestone anchors the new wing at the corner; and

WHEREAS the new wing extends the roof and cornice alignments of the museum; and

WHEREAS the design of the facades continues the Roche-Dinkeloo planning concept of stone modulated with glass volumes; and

WHEREAS the belt sawn and split face stone textures of the new Tang Wing complement but vary from the sandblasted stone textures of the museum facades; and

WHEREAS the stone in the new Tang Wing is made up of custom shaped bricks that can be made into solid rain screens or Celosia (porous) screens set in front of glazing; and

WHEREAS the proportions of the stone bricks become smaller level by level, enhancing the perspective views; and

WHEREAS the new Tang Wing has five levels with terraces on Levels 4 and 5 with views of the City; and

WHEREAS the Celosia screens filter natural light during the day, which is desired for the artwork; and

WHEREAS the daylight facilitates wayfinding; and

WHEREAS the Celosia screens emit a soft glow of light at night; and

WHEREAS the Tang Wing maintains the scale of the overall museum building; and

WHEREAS the Tang Wing balances the needs of the Met with an addition that in its materials and proportions completes the massing of the Met with a unique design; and

WHEREAS the Tang Wing extends the Met's tradition of expanding with a design that is expressive of its time; and

WHEREAS the Tang Wing is contextual and appropriate for this individual landmark;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Part A of this application is **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**.

Part B – The Landscape

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 19, 2025, the Board approved **Part B** of the following resolution by a vote of 35 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the proposed landscape has three goals; and

WHEREAS the first goal will create an accessible path from Fifth Avenue to the Great Lawn; and

WHEREAS the second goal will establish a diverse planting palette that will promote biodiversity and be appropriate to the scenic landmark; and

WHEREAS the third goal will improve the Park and Museum interface through planting, grading, screening, and views; and

WHEREAS the project site area has a lawn with a relatively small number of trees that will be transformed by the three goals; and

WHEREAS there are planting precedents in Central Park that will inform the landscape design; and

WHEREAS the proposed path around the Tang Wing will be graded to eliminate the non-accessible slope; and

WHEREAS the proposed landscaping will remove 13 trees and plant 40 to 50 new trees; and

WHEREAS the wood from the removed trees will be used locally; and

WHEREAS the materials palette will include asphalt paving with sloping granite block curbs, Central Park settee benches, pipe rail fences, and reinforced drivable grass; and

WHEREAS the new planting will create a surround of the Tang Wing with trees and plants native to Central Park; and

WHEREAS the proposed landscape will improve the scenic views from the public way; and

WHEREAS the proposed landscape is contextual and appropriate for the individual landmark;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Part B of this application is **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Honorable Elizabeth Smith, President & CEO of the Central Park Conservancy
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District